LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An apparatus in at least one node participating in a communication session for initiating a search for a radio station during a communication session comprising:

signal monitoring component for detecting the strength of the communication signal; and

comparator component for comparing the detected strength of the signal to a predetermined reference and for generating a initiation signal to initiate said search when deterioration of the strength of the communication signal indicates the appearance of a new radio station.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the communication session is wireless.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the communication session is an ad hoc communication network session.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the communication session is a multi-hop wireless communication session.

5. (currently amended) An apparatus in at least one node participating in a communication session for initiating a search for a radio station during a communication session comprising:

interference detection component for detecting the intensity of interference in the session; and

comparator component for comparing the intensity of interference to a predetermined reference and for generating an initiation signal to initiate said search when increased

intensity of interference indicates the appearance of a new radio station.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the communication session is wireless.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the communication session is an ad hoc communication network session.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the communication session is a multi-hop wireless communication session.

9. (currently amended) An apparatus in at least one node participating in a communication session for altering the frequency at which monitoring for radio stations are performed during a communication session comprising:

signal monitoring component for detecting the strength of the communication signal; and

comparator component for comparing the detected strength of the signal to a predetermined reference and for generating a signal to alter the frequency of said monitoring when deterioration of the strength of the communication signal indicates the appearance of at least one new radio station.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the communication session is a wireless communication session.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the communication session is an ad hoc communication network session.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the communication session is a multi-hop wireless communication session.

13. (currently amended) A method performed by at least one node participating in a communication session for initiating a search for a radio station during a communication session comprising the steps of:

detecting the strength of the communication signal;

comparing the detected strength of the signal to a predetermined reference; and

generating a initiation signal to initiate said search when deterioration of the strength of the communication signal indicates the appearance of a new radio station.

14. (currently amended) A method performed by at least one node participating in a communication session for initiating a search for a radio station during a communication session comprising the steps of:

detecting the intensity of interference in the session;

comparing the intensity of interference to a predetermined reference; and

generating an initiation signal to initiate said search when increased intensity of interference indicates the appearance of a new radio station.

15. (currently amended) A method performed by at least one node participating in a communication session for altering the frequency at which monitoring for radio stations is performed during a communication session comprising the steps of:

detecting the strength of the communication signal; and

comparing the detected strength of the signal to a predetermined reference; and

generating a signal to alter the frequency of said monitoring when deterioration of the strength of the communication signal indicates the appearance of at least one new radio station.

16. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein said altering comprising increasing frequency of monitoring to search for radio stations when the signal strength is less than a predetermined reference and decreasing the frequency when the signal strength exceeds the predetermined reference.

17. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for initiating a search for a radio station during a communication session, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting the strength of the communication signal;

comparing the detected strength of the signal to a predetermined reference; and

generating a initiation signal to initiate said search when deterioration of the strength of the communication signal indicates the appearance of a new radio station.

18. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for initiating a search for a radio station during a communication session, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting the intensity of interference in the session; comparing the intensity of interference to a predetermined reference; and

generating an initiation signal to initiate said search when increased intensity of interference indicates the appearance of a new radio station.

19. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for altering the frequency at which monitoring for radio stations is performed during a communication session, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting the strength of the communication signal; ~~and~~

comparing the detected strength of the signal to a predetermined reference; and

generating a signal to alter the frequency of said monitoring when deterioration of the strength of the communication signal indicates the appearance of at least one new radio station.